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### UM brings climate change discussions to classrooms

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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Feb. 20, 2009

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### **UM BRINGS CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSIONS TO CLASSROOMS**

#### **MISSOULA —**

More than 1,100 University of Montana students from various disciplines participated in “Campus Climate Exchange” discussions led by UM faculty members Feb. 18-19.

“Campus Climate Exchange” is an educational initiative designed to raise awareness about the breadth of climate change and its many dimensions.

The initiative builds on last year’s inaugural “Focus the Nation” climate change awareness project, when more than 1,500 events took place across the country. UM’s participation in “Focus the Nation” was considered among the top 100.

This year’s “Campus Climate Exchange” was designed to engage UM students across campus in discussions about climate change that were relevant to their disciplines. The event was a joint effort organized by the University’s Environmental Studies Program and the Associated Students of UM Sustainability Center.

Several UM faculty members who teach in various disciplines -- from English to geography and technology to forestry and conservation -- participated in this year’s educational initiative.

Students in biomedical and pharmaceutical sciences classes learned how climate change may be altering world occurrences and distribution of infectious diseases. Political



science students discussed individual ethical obligations to the environment, and School of Business Administration students evaluated best practices associated with sustainable business.

“These are just a few examples of the lively discussions that came about through the ‘Campus Climate Exchange’ initiative,” said Jessie Davie, ASUM sustainability coordinator.

“The hope is that the initiative will encourage more classroom discussions about climate change within various academic fields at UM.”

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